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AGO D/A ltr, 29 Apr 1980

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31 Dec 1973, per document markings; AGO D/A ltr, 29 Apr 1980	

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(19) OT-RD-660319



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (4 Mar 67) FOR OT

(11) 2 Nov 66
(12) 15p.
10 March 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters,
1st Howitzer Battalion 30th Artillery [KJ.8]

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

(9) Operational rept. for quarterly period ending 31 Oct 66.

1. Forwarded as inclosure is Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 1st Howitzer Battalion 30th Artillery for quarterly period ending 31 October 1966. Information contained in this report should be reviewed and evaluated by CDC in accordance with paragraph 6f of AR 1-19 and by CONARC in accordance with paragraph 6c and d of AR 1-19. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to the Commandants of the Service Schools to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations, and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

Kenneth G. Wickham

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

1 Incl
a/s

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HEADQUARTERS
1ST HOWITZER BATTALION 30TH ARTILLERY
APO 96238

AVF-AT-30

2 November 1966

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly period ending 31 October 1966. Reports Control Symbol (CSFOR-65)

THRU: Commanding Officer
52nd Artillery Group
APO US Forces 96295

TO: See Distribution

SECTION I (C) SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATION OR UNIT ACTIVITIES

1. (C) General:

a. During the period 1 August 1966 to 31 October 1966 the firing batteries of the 1st Howitzer Battalion, 30th Artillery operated at widely separated locations in support of Free World Military Assistance Forces in the II Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam. From 25 August 1966 to 31 October 1966, Battery C was the only organic firing battery under direct control of the battalion. The remaining firing batteries were either attached for OPCON or under OPCON of various major organizations in the Tactical Zone.

b. The 1st Howitzer Battalion, 30th Artillery less Battery A and Battery B, but with OPCON of Battery B, 3rd Howitzer Battalion, 6th Artillery participated in Operation IRVING from 1 October to 18 October 1966. The Battalion was in General Support of the IFFORCEV Fire Support Coordination Center. A total of 2521 rounds were fired by the Battalion (-) during the 17 day period.

2. (C) Intelligence: Due to the large geographical separation from higher headquarters, the 1st Howitzer Battalion, 30th Artillery sought intelligence information from local Free World Military Assistance Force agencies. The Capital ROK Infantry Division, 22nd ARVN Division, and the Tuy Phouc District were excellent sources of intelligence information. The material obtained was of a direct tactical interest to the battalion during the quarter.

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3. (C) Operations and Training Activities

a. Headquarters Battery.

2

(1) As part of the General Support of the IFFORCEV Fire Support Coordination Center during Operation IRVING (1 October to 19 October 1966) the Headquarters Battery, 1st Howitzer Battalion, 30th Artillery moved to the field (Coordinates 49P BK 914 463) on 30 September 1966.

(2) The battery set up and maintained the FSCC facilities throughout Operation IRVING, returning to base camp (49P BR 972 252) on 19 October 1966.

b. Service Battery.

(1) During Operation IRVING, Service Battery supported the battalion operation from its base camp location. (Also see section 4, Logistics).

(2) Service Battery remained at the base camp throughout the period.

c. Battery A.

(1) From 1 August to 20 September 1966, Battery A was attached for OPCON to the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. This status was changed on 20 October 1966 to OPCON of the same brigade. On 23 October 1966, Battery A was placed under OPCON of the 4th Infantry Division, and remained in this status through the end of the quarter.

(2) Participating in Operations PAUL REVERE II and III, Battery A was located at coordinates 49P ZA 120 285 from 1 August 1966 to 22 October 1966. To support PAUL REVERE IV, the battery was ordered to displace on 22 October 1966 to coord 49P YA 858 534. It closed into that position on 23 October 1966. A further displacement was made to coordinates 49P YA 815 466 on 28 October 1966 and then back again to coordinates 49P YA 853 534 on 30 October 1966. Battery A continued in its participation in Operation PAUL REVERE IV, at the end of the quarter.

(3) Battery A was involved in Operations PAUL REVERE II, III, and IV for the entire quarter. It expended 9891 rounds in the period.

d. Battery B.

(1) Battery B was attached for OPCON to the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division from 1 August to 1 October 1966. On 1 October 1966 the status was changed to OPCON of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. The Battery remained in this status through the end of the quarter.

(2) At the beginning of the reporting period Battery B was located in the vicinity of the Tuy Hoa South Air Field, coordinates 49P CQ 220 410. The unit displaced to coord 49P CQ 135 527 on 8 August 1966 and from there to coordinates 49P CQ 111 675, vicinity Tuy An on 22 August 1966. On 25 October 1966 the battery returned to the south of Tuy Hoa to coordinates 49P GQ 237 369.

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3 (3) Battery B participated in Operation JOHN PAUL JONES from 1 August to 31 August 1966 (31 days), and its continuation, Operation SEWARD, from 1 September 1966 until 25 October 1966 (55 days). From 25 October 1966 until the end of the reporting period the battery "stood down" for maintenance. Battery B expended 9751 rounds during the quarter.

e. Battery C.

(1) At the beginning of the quarter, Battery C (-) was attached for OPCON to the 1st Cavalry Division while the 1st platoon (2 howitzers), Battery C was under battalion control with the mission of general support of Capital ROK Infantry Division and Phu Cat District. On 25 August 1966, Battery C was reunited and given the mission of general support of Capital ROK Division and Phu Cat District, which lasted through 1 October 1966. On 1 October 1966, the 1st Howitzer Battalion, 30th Artillery took direct control of Battery C for Operation IRVING. The Battery mission during Operation IRVING was general support I FFORCEV FSCC with priority of fires to the Capital ROK Division. On 18 October 1966, Battery C returned to its mission of general support Capital ROK Division and Phu Cat District.

(2) While with the 1st Cavalry Division (Air Mobile), Battery C (-) performed a road security mission on highways 19 and 14 in the vicinity of Pleiku (49P AR 780 460). The unit was reunited at coordinates 49P Br 936 468 on 25 August 1966 and remained at this location until 28 October 1966. At that date, Battery C displaced to coordinates 49P BR 882 544 and remained there to the end of the reporting period.

(3) Battery C (-) performed the road security mission for 1st Cavalry Division while this major force was involved in Operation PAUL REVERE III. (Total Battery C participation 25 days). From 23 September to 1 October 1966, (9 days), Battery C participated in Operation Meng Ho Vi (Capital ROK Division) and fired 1199 rounds on this operation. On Operation IRVING, Battery C participated under Battalion control (see 1b above) from 1 October to 18 October 1966, a total of 18 days. Overall the unit expended 6554 rounds of ammunition during the quarter.

f. Battery B (Searchlight), 29th Artillery was attached for rations, quarters, and administration to 1st Howitzer Battalion, 30th Artillery, on 8 October 1966.

4. (U) LOGISTICS

a. Headquarters Battery and Service Battery continued the development of the Battalion base camp ten miles west of Qui Nhon. Under the self help program 95% of the necessary materials to build a total of 78 buildings for Headquarters Battery, Service Battery and 3 firing batteries were received. Construction of buildings for one of the two remaining firing battery areas continued at the end of the quarter. The entire program had been accomplished by troop labor using organic facilities. The next step in the base development will be construction of seven guard towers.

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b. During the period several units were staged through the base camp of the Battalion.

(1) The equipment of the 3rd Howitzer Battalion, 6th Artillery after being unloaded in Qui Nhon was staged in the base camp. On 3 August 1966 the 3rd Battalion, 6th Artillery moved their equipment out of the base camp to its own area.

(2) On 18 September 1966, Battery A, 6th Battalion, 14th Artillery was received and billeted in the base camp for the night of 18-19 September. The unit moved to Qui Nhon on 19 September 1966 for further transportation by water to Tuy Hoa.

(3) Battery B, (Searchlight), 29th Artillery was stationed on a permanent basis in the base camp on 5 October 1966. The unit was provided a set of vacant firing battery buildings.

(4) On 13 October 1966 the advance party of 7th Howitzer Battalion, 13th Artillery was received and billeted in the base camp area. The advance party departed the base camp on 24 October 1966 for its own position.

5. (U) CIVIL AFFAIRS

A Civil Affairs program was initiated on 19 October 1966: The hamlet of Du'ong An in Tuy Phouc District of Binh Dinh Province was selected for support under the Medcap II program. The hamlet had no medical support from the GVN. As there was no dispensary in the hamlet, initial plans called for the building of a dispensary in conjunction with hamlet authorities and USAID. The Civil Affairs program will be expanded in the next quarter.

6. (C) PERSONNEL

a. Personnel Losses and Gains: During period 1 August - 31 October 1966.

(1) Officers

<u>LOSSES</u>	<u>GAINS</u>
LTC - 1	1
MAJ - 1	0
CPT - 13	8
LT - 7	13
WO - 3	2
<u>TOTAL 25</u>	<u>24</u>

It is significant to note that of the 25 losses reported, 22 occurred during the month of October. This represents a turn-over of 62% of authorized TOL in one month.

(2) Enlisted

<u>LOSSES</u>	<u>GAINS</u>
Gr E7 thru E9 - 12	9
Gr E2 thru E6 - 102	20
<u>TOTAL 114</u>	<u>29</u>

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5 The imbalance in enlisted replacements was due to not coordinating early release of enlisted personnel with replacement requisitioning.

b. Awards and Decorations: The following Awards and Decorations were made during the reporting period:

Bronze Star (1st OLC) -- 1
Bronze Star - - - - - 7
ARCM (1st OLC) - - - - - 1
ARCM - - - - - 23
Air Medal (2d OLC) - - - 1
Air Medal - - - - - 7
Certificate of Achievement - 9

SECTION 2 (C) COMMANDER'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Part I, Observations (Lessons Learned)

1. (C) Personnel.

a. Item: Personnel losses and gains (See para 6)

b. Discussion: Records indicate an orderly turn-over of commissioned officers on a nearly 1 to 1 ratio during the period. However, a great disparity exists in the turn-over of all enlisted grades. Although a program was initiated and executed for the early release of enlisted personnel, it is apparent that replacement requisitions were not programmed to cover such losses. The 114 enlisted losses during the period can be considered as predominantly planned "early" redeployments since the DMKCS anniversary date of the battalion is mid-November. Requisitions submitted for this period only total 24. In contrast, requisitions for the month of November total 107, as opposed to 75 anticipated losses. (The variation in total losses and requisitions for October/November is 10%). In summation, the net result of the attempted "phased turn-over" of personnel during the period, is the early loss of many key NCO's and other enlisted grades without benefit of replacements. This has created an ensuing loss in unit efficiency until replacements are received.

c. Observation: There is a need for more thorough planning in the area of replacement requisitioning, to off-set the impact of "personnel turn over".

2. (C) Operations

a. Item: Support of IFFORCEV Fire Support Coordination Center by a general support artillery battalion.

b. Discussion: The 1st Howitzer Battalion, 30th Artillery (-) while performing the mission of General Support of the IFFV FSCC controlled Battery C, 1st Howitzer Battalion, 30th Artillery and Battery B, 3rd Howitzer Battalion, 6th Artillery. The FSCC facility was provided by Headquarters Battery at coordinates (49P BR 914 463). Service Battery supported the FSCC

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facility logistically while also giving logistic support to one organic battery and one self propelled 105mm howitzer battery.

6

c. Observation: A General Support battalion does possess the facilities to support a force FSCC while concurrently controlling two (2) or more firing batteries, provided the scheme of maneuver does not entail extensive displacement and the FSCC and the operations elements of the battalion can be collocated.

3. (U) Medical

a. Item: Minor Surgical and Suturing Asepsis.

b. Discussion: The unavailability of autoclaves at the battalion level raises a problem in the aseptic technique employed in minor surgery.

c. Observation: All instruments to be used are soaked in full strength Wescodyne. The area is prepared as standard procedure requires. Then it is clean, but not necessarily sterile. Draping is to be used. Prior to closing an incision or laceration with sutures an antibiotic ointment is applied directly to the wound. The area is then closed with primary closure. The wound is then dressed again using antibiotic ointment over the suture site. The wound is inspected and dressed daily until sutures are removed.

4. (U) Communications

a. Item: Cables, 5 pair, CX-162

b. Discussion: The cable 5 pair CX-162 which is authorized at battalion level should not be buried. Ants and other insects, strip the rubber installation off the outside of the cable. When it rains and the ground becomes water soaked, the cable then shorts out.

c. Observation: The cable, CX-162, can be used, as long as it is overheaded. If it is necessary to bury the cable, then a cable should be constructed of WD-1/TT and the CX-162 not utilized. Ants and other insects will not harm WD-1 and it will retain its continuity for at least 6 months if left undisturbed.

Part II, Recommendations

1. (C) Personnel.

a. Reference Part I, Observations (Lessons Learned) Personnel.

b. I recommend the following actions:

(1) Submissions of requisitions for key NCO's on a basis of 50% of requirement 60 days in advance of DEROS and 50% of requirement 30 days in advance of DEROS.

(2) Release of incumbent key NCO's after receipt, orientation and training of replacements.

(3) Correlation of requisitions with all other early release programs.

6

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7

2. (U) Operations.

a. Reference Part I, Observations (Lessons Learned) Operations.

b. I recommend that artillery general support battalion headquarters elements be used to assist in the establishment of fire support coordination centers for forces with a limited organic capability for such installations. Such battalion headquarters can also be used to reduce the span of control of supported organizations by simultaneously controlling attached or OPCON artillery batteries.

3. (U) Medical

a. Reference Part I, Observations (Lessons Learned) Medical.

b. I recommend that the procedure in reference above be evaluated by the Medical Corps and, if found to be sound, disseminated through technical channels to battalion level.

4. (U) Communications.

a. Reference Part I, Observations (Lessons Learned) Communications.

b. I recommend that cable, CX-162, not be used for underground cable. I further recommend that locally fabricated cable made of WD-1/TT field wire be used when buried cable is desirable.

/s/ John R. Sayre Maj Arty

(for) HORACE L. HUNTER
LTC Artillery
Commanding

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OPERATIONAL REPORT - 1st Bn, 30th Arty

8

SECTION 2, PART 1: SI Comment

The battalion failed to program replacement requisitions concurrent with adjusted rotation dates of curtailed personnel.

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9

AVFA-AT-52-CO (2 Nov 66) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of Lessons Learned for quarterly period
ending 31 October 1966

Headquarters, 52d Artillery Group, APO 96295 4 November 1966

TO: Commanding Officer, I FORCEN Artillery, APO 96350

1. Forwarded herewith is the Operational Report, subject as above, for 1st Howitzer Battalion, 50th Artillery.

2. Throughout the Group officers arrived in a timely manner allowing adequate overlap for a smooth transition. Generally, senior non-commissioned officers have been arriving in sufficient time to allow short early releases. E-7's and above are requisitioned 8 months in advance while E-6's and below are requisitioned only 5 months in advance. Experience has shown that approximately 40% of enlisted men grade E-6 and below are arriving 2-4 weeks late. This has caused periods of vacancies and some involuntary extensions. In cases of large numbers of enlisted men having the same DEMOS there has been the necessity to transfer personnel from other units to avoid an unacceptable decrease in assignment strength.

3. Recommendations: Enlisted personnel in grade E-6 and below be requisitioned six months in advance to allow the Department of the Army sufficient time to allow a smooth transition.

1 Incl
as

O. L. Tobiason
O. L. TOBIASON
Colonel Artillery
Commanding

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AVFA-AT-D (2 Nov 66)

2d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period
Ending 31 October 1966, (1st Bn, 30th Arty) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM ARTILLERY, APO 96350 - 3 DEC 1966

TO: Commanding General, I Field Force Vietnam, ATTN: AVFA-CG-O&T,
APO 96350

1. (U) Concur in the findings and recommendations contained in basic communication and the first indorsement.

2. (U) Action has been taken to initiate an Equipment Improvement Report on Cable, CX-162.

3. (U) Reference Section 2, Part I, it has been determined that the battalion failed to program replacement requisitions concurrent with adjusted rotation dates of personnel being curtailed. Action has been taken to insure that similar incidents do not recur.

Ashley A. Blinn

ASHLEY A. BLINN
Colonel, Artillery
Commanding

10

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AVFA-GC-O&T (2 Nov 66)

3d Ind *(S)*

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1966. Reports Control Symbol (CSFOR-65) (U)

Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam, APO US Forces 96350 17 DEC 1966

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, APO US Forces 96307

1. (U) This headquarters concurs with the comments and recommendations contained in basic report, except as noted below.

2. (C) Reference, Part I Observations, Paragraph 3, Page 6.

a. The application of an antibiotic ointment to the surface of the skin, either before or after surgical procedure, should not be condoned. To condone this practice is to imply a lack of confidence in the standard methods of skin preparation for incision. If the skin is properly prepared with soap and water scrubbing, there is no need to apply antibiotic ointment.

b. Soaking surgical instruments in WESCODYNE SOLUTION is not an acceptable method of sterilization. The recommended method to be used, is to send pre-packed surgical packs to the nearest medical company, or hospital, for proper autoclaving.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

William H. James
WILLIAM H. JAMES
COLONEL, AGC
ADJUTANT GENERAL

Copy furnished:

CO, 1st How Bn, 30th Arty

11

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AVHGC-DH (2 Nov 66) 4th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending
31 October 1966 (FCS CSFOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96307 19 JAN 1967

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, AMTN: CROP-OT
APO 96558

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the period ending 31 October 1966 from Headquarters, 1st Howitzer Battalion, 30th Artillery as indorsed.

2. Reference Paragraph 3, Part I, Section 2, Para 6; Paragraph 3, Part II, Section 2, and Paragraph 2, 3d Indorsement: Concur with paragraph 2, 3d Indorsement to Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 1st Howitzer Battalion, 30th Artillery.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



P. V. THORNTON
1st Lt, AGC
Asst Adjutant General

12

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17

GPOP-OT (2 Nov 66)

5th Ind (U)

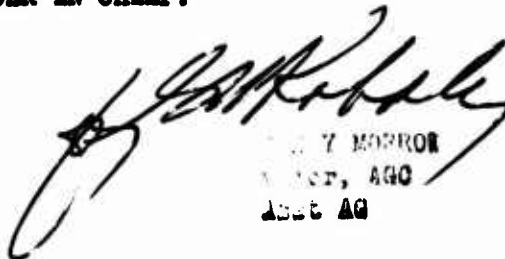
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending
31 October 1966 (RCS CSFOR-65), HQ 1st How Bn 30th Arty

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558 14 FEB 1967

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters concurs in the basic report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



J. Y. MORRIS
ASST. AGO
ASST. AG

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